KETCHUM AND LIEBERMAN PLAYING AT KANSAS CITY

MORRIS-SYSTEMS CHECKERIST

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CHECKER-PLAYING WORLD

Former Southern Champion Goes to Reward

CAPT. F. B. FISHBURNE

Vol. IV

No. 1

January, 1926

SEELBACH CHECKER SERVICE

Checker and Chess Books—Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

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American Checker Monthly, Official Organ of American Checker Association...1 year	3.00
Morris Systems Checkerist, monthly (a very fine work)...1 year	1.50
Draughts Review, monthly, the British Draughts periodical...1 year	1.50
Composition Checkers, Red and Black, 12 of each in box	.25
1925 Colorado Checker Bulletin, official organ Colorado Checker Association...1 year	1.00
London Championship Games (Draughts Review No. 8)	.15

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ALL BOOKS SENT POST PAID.

E. J. SEELBACH

3646 Lawrence Avenue **Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.**

MORRIS-SYSTEMS
CHECKERIST

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CHECKER-PLAYING WORLD

NEWELL WILLIAMS BANKS, Editor
MATCH CHAMPION OF AMERICA
B. BROWARR and J. G. FINLEY, Associate Editors

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VOL. IV *JANUARY, 1926* *Number 1*

GOOD HOLIDAY PROGRAMS ARRANGED IN LEADING CLUBS THROUGHOUT AMERICA, AS A SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS PREVAILS

* * * * *

Lull in Contributions for International Match Felt as Fans and Players Are Busy With Yuletide Festivities

* * * * *

By J. G. FINLEY, *Secretary A. C. A.*

CHRISTMAS — NEW YEARS — the happy holiday season when dear old Santa Claus and his reindeer come with sleigh and jingling bells, and presents of good things for the little folks; the festive season when the whole family gathers, amid scenes of mirth and joy and good will, to partake of a sumptuous feast of turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, apple pie baked by mother, some dainty cake baked by sister, and some delicious wine (that survived the havoc wrought by Volstead), smuggled in by brother; father, forgetting that he has a checker match to play with his next door neighbor, busily engaged in carving the turkey, with dexterous twists of the ancient carving knife, long laid at rest since its last usage—and so on to the welcoming of the Infant New Year of 1926, amid the clamor or horns, whistles and auto sirens that sharply pierce the frosty midnight air, above the receding din of the last moment midnight revelers; and bells that

Ring out the old—
Ring in the new:—

bring a picture of the year 1925 as it passed into history; a new page in our eventful lives is turned and with brave hearts we smilingly face the unknown future.

Lucky indeed is he, who, surrounded by a happy family, by friends and relatives, can enjoy to the fullest the spirit of "Peace on Earth—Good Will to All Men." But this spirit of good fellowship is not alone the property of the citizen whose family ties are numerous, to enjoy—it spreads to the utmost shelters of life, and seeks out every nook and corner, claiming those who walk alone; it steals into the hearts and senses of the multitude, making them also happy and thankful for the many blessings vouchsafed to mankind.

The checker clubs throughout the country will find, this festive season, many good fellows joined in friendly contest and enjoying to the full one another's companionship. The holiday spirit is paramount, and their happy faces register the import of the occasion. As a social leveler and practical preacher of democracy, checkers and her

sister game of chess, have found a warm spot in the hearts of many thousands.

It is the sincere wish of the publisher and editors of this magazine that our family of readers, as well as the entire checker and chess fraternity of America and the other countries, enjoy a happy holiday season, and that the outlook for the New Year of 1926 will prove full of promise, and all the good things that make life worth while.

Interesting programs have been arranged in the various checker centers and clubs throughout the country, so that the fans can enjoy themselves checkeristically. Boston is holding a great meet at the Wells Club, in which many national experts plan to participate. Brooklyn, Newark, Trenton, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Sunbury, Columbus, and other points are holding State and Club tourneys and social functions.

Cleveland stages the annual state tourney over the New Year's, while Chicago fans will gather to attend the simultaneous exhibitions given by Joe Duffy and F. R. Wendemuth for the benefit of the International Match Fund. Kansas City is being entertained by a 30-game match between P. H. Ketchum and Harry Lieberman — one of a series of elimination matches for the selection of the All-American team.

Fans from all over Michigan are gathering at Webster Hall, Detroit, to participate in the annual state tourney and to witness the 30-game battle between L. M. Lewis and Mike Lieber for national honors.

On the western coast the checker gallants are battling valiantly for the Pacific coast championship, the winner to play Dossett of Indiana in April.

Verily, indeed, the good old game of checkers is on the boom throughout America. And it is a good omen. It means that the Big Drive for the International Match—soon to be launched—will be a grand success. It means that in the Fall of 1926 we will see the British team facing our own boys across the Dambrod, struggling for world supremacy, and making checker history.

Who will win? We cannot say. The sport of the thing—the meeting of 'auld acquaintances—the making and cementing of new friendships—the international fraternalization of the ancient game of checkers—is of far greater import than the mere counting of the scores made by the players.

We urge every true follower of Dama in America to start the New Year with a firm resolution and a conscientious effort to give hearty financial support to the International Match Fund. Let's resolve right here and now that we will make the year of 1926 go down in checker history as a banner year—a year that will mark an epoch in the development of the game.

THE HONOR ROLL

Preliminary Match Fund

Harry Latz, New York City	$50.00
John W. Bolton, Lawrence, Mass.	50.00
E. H. Greene, Hannibal, Mo.	10.00
Henry Maxwell, Hackensack, N. J.	10.00
Canton, Ohio, Checker Club	10.00
Will H. Tyson, Big Run, Pa.	10.00
W. C. Suitt, Cambridge, O.	10.00
Ralph E. Powers, Denver, Colo.	10.00
J. H. Scott, Chicago, Ill.	10.00
H. C. Saltiel, Rawlins, Wyo.	6.00
Joseph Brown, Woonsocket, R. I.	6.00
Newell W. Banks, Detroit	5.00
H. B. Reynolds, Buffalo, N. Y.	5.00
John G. Finley, Detroit	5.00
L. M. Lewis, Wheeling, W. Va.	5.00
Thos. J. O'Grady, Rochester, N. Y.	5.00
Wm. Fostnaught, Van Wert, O.	5.00
Marvin Palmer, Detroit	5.00
Owen Fox, New York City	5.00
C. W. Warnock, Huntington, W.Va.	5.00
Peter Mousouris, New York City	5.00
A. R. Dossett, Lebanon, Ind.	5.00
Wm. F. Carroll, Chicago, Ill.	5.00
Bernard Kistner, New York City	5.00
L. D. Parker, New York City	5.00
H. Apothaker, Philadelphia, Pa.	3.00
Frank G. Farmer, Wichita, Kan.	3.00
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Roy H. Parks, Lynchburg, Tenn.	2.00
C. A. Woodard, Albany, N. Y.	2.00
W. K. Carpenter, Erie, Pa.	2.00
Geo. W. Sims, Charlotsville, Va.	2.00
M. F. Clouser, Sussex, N. J.	2.00
Harry Thaler, Brooklyn	2.00
Fausto Dalumi, New York City	1.00
W. A. Stone, Concord, N. H.	1.00
W. W. Walker, Chicago, Ill.	1.00
F. W. Steinbeck, Fink, W. Va.	1.00

D. S. Coleman, Wichita, Kan.	1.00
O. L. Michael, Frankfort, Ind.	1.00
J. P. Schmitt, Pittsburg, Pa.	1.00
J. H. Robinson, Atlanta, Ga.	1.00
Emil G. Gabler, Saranac Lake, N. Y.	1.00
B. J. McGory, Sandusky, O.	1.00
Arthur Harmon, Portland, Me.	1.00
L. A. Finch, Parkdale, Ark.	1.00
W. D. Blair, Detroit	1.00
Harold Zoft, Detroit	1.00
Edgar Ford, Detroit	1.00
Reuben Skoog, Detroit	1.00
Murvin Lowry, Detroit	1.00
Geo. Cloyd, Detroit	1.00
W. C. Howe, Detroit	1.00
Eric Ericson, Detroit	1.00
Floyd S. Webster, Cortland, Ill.	1.00
C. W. Virgin, Sank Center, Minn.	1.00
A. W. Sellers, Marshall, Ohio	1.00
R. C. Potter, Berwick, Pa.	1.00
G. F. Getgen, Williamsport, Pa.	1.00
Ivan Powers, Cuba, N. Y.	1.00
W. G. Shaffer, Chicago, Ill.	1.00
Jas. J. Earley, New Bedford, Mass.	1.00
Rex B. Wood, Miller, Ind.	1.00
B. Dell, Grand Rapids, Mich.	1.00
H. Zlobin, Brooklyn	1.00
F. W. Kitchell, Oil City, Pa.	1.00
J. W. Henshall, Detroit	1.00
Walter G. Boyd, Marshallton, Del.	1.00
M. R. Buchanan, Brooklyn, N. Y.	1.00
H. Scott, New York City	1.00
F. T. Byron, Casper, Wyo.	1.00
Lee Likes, Casper, Wyo.	1.00
W. Lonie, West Orange, N. J.	1.00
Fred A. Barker, Nashua, N. H.	2.00
E. R. Goddard, Jacksonville, Fla.	1.00
Edward Scheidt, Columbus, O.	1.00
David A. Mitchell, Bermuda	1.00
Harry K. Clark, Evansville, Ind.	1.00
J. A. Finn, Pittsburg, Pa.	1.00
E. Runion, Commerce, Ga.	1.00
Joe Collins, Pittsburgh	1.00
Archie Donaldson, Du Bois, Pa.	5.00
L. C. Rinker, Frankford, Mo.	1.00
A. V. Greene, Rock Rapids, Ia.	1.00
W. E. E. Greene, Laverne, Minn.	1.00
E. H. Greene, Hannibal, Mo.	1.00
W. L. Bingham, Louisville, Ky.	1.00
Andros Gulde, Chelsea, Mich.	2.00
Carol Binsack, Fremont, O.	1.00
Chas. Hefter, Chicago	10.00
Total Preliminary Fund	$353.00

* * *

International Team Match Fund

E. H. Greene, Hannibal, Mo.	$100.00
Charles Hefter, Kankakee, Ill.	100.00
Will H. Tyson, Big Run, Pa.	100.00
W. E. Thomis, Chicago	50.00
Newell W. Banks, Detroit	25.00
Ralph D. Banks, Chicago	25.00
H. B. Reynolds, Buffalo	25.00
C. H. Leggett, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.	25.00
F. R. Wendemuth, Chicago, Ill.	25.00
John G. Finley, Detroit	25.00
E. J. Seelbach, Chicago	10.00
W. J. Wood, Waukegan, Ill.	5.00
Joe Collins, Pittsburgh	5.00
H. C. Newland, Edmund, Ont.	5.00
Total Team Match Fund	$525.00

F. B. Fishburne Dies at Columbia, S. C.

Former Southern Champion and Noted Blindfold Performer Succumbs to Illness of Five Years.

Once again comes that sad news, the passing of another beloved brother in the checker world; heads are bowed in grief as a legion of true friends and admirers learn that F. B. Fishburne is no more — that the valiant captain has played his last game and has now reached life's king row where glory awaiteth him. The year 1925 has indeed reaped its toll of lives in the ranks of checker players — Brady, Stebbins, Hatfield, Bailow, then Mathewson, and now Captain Fishburne, are all gone from our midst.

Mr. Fishburne was taken seriously ill five years ago with cancer of the tongue, but after several operations had improved in health and strength. Recently, he underwent his fourth operation, and had seemingly improved to the extent that he was able to be up and about. A sudden reaction set in, however, and his family was hurriedly summoned to his bedside Dec. 13th, where, surrounded by those he loved, the brave hearted and kindly man fell into a drowsy calm and closed his eyes in the last great sleep.

For several years champion of the southern states, and a blindfold performer of national repute, the genial captain was well known in many states in the union; and his unusual skill at checkers, his kindly and attractive personality, and his ever ready wit and wholesome optimism, made him a general favorite in the checker fraternity.

He was one of the first organizers of the A. C. A. in 1911 and at that time was a vice-president. Attending the 6th Tourney in 1924 during its later rounds, he met many old friends and cronies in the checker realm, with whom he spent many happy moments. There he was re-elected a vice-president, which office he held up to the time of his death.

He is survived by his mother, his widow, three sons, three brothers and three sisters.

The American Checker Association extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family in their great loss; and the entire checker fraternity will miss, ever so much, their genial captain, their true friend and pal of the Dambrod.

Britons Challenge U. S. to Correspondence Match

The A. C. A. Secretary is in receipt of a friendly challenge from C. F. Maidwell, Sec. Surrey County Draughts Association, England, as follows:

London, Eng. Dec. 3, 1925

Mr. J. G. Finley,
Sec. A. C. A.

Dear Sir:

We are desirous of having a correspondence tournament with a representative American team of nine to a dozen players, and should be glad to hear if this would be of interest to any members of your association.

Trusting to hear favorably from you in due course, I am, yours faithfully

C. F. Maidwell

Hon. Sec. Surrey County Draughts Assoc., 63 The cottages. Rosendale Road, Herne Hill, London S. E. A. Eng.

The A. C. A. Secretary replied that such a match could be arranged, providing the contestants were not prospective candidates or members of the International Teams to represent America and Great Britain in the 1926 Team Match.

Invitations are extended to all the leading analysts and correspondence players of America to enroll their names as candidates for our team of 10 players. Then a committee of experienced and capable correspondence players will select the team and elect their captain, who will then take full charge and arrange all details. It will be interesting to learn who are America's best correspondence players. All players are urged to write the Secretary at once and give their views.

McHARDY'S RELATIVE POSITIONS

We have received a copy of this recently-published book on the relative positions of checker endings. There are sixty-six problems, and as most of them are of a relative nature, the checker players will at once recognize the importance of having a work of this kind included in their library, as it is really necessary for one to be able to recognize positions when they come up across the board at any time, and be able to to play them correctly. The book is neatly got up, while the diagrams and printing are exceptionally good. The price is only $1. Write for one to J. Dougherty, 4026 Dalton avenue, Los Angles, Cal.

CHICAGO FANS ACCLAIM THE GAME

By S. S. Bell

Chicago's playgrounds are teeming with checker players endeavoring to win the medals donated by the Chicago Playground Council. The playgrounds of this city are divided into five groups, the Chicago, South Park, Bureau of Education, Lincoln, and West Park. Last season the Board of Education playgrounds alone held a tournament with 8,000 entrants, which number will be passed this year.

Superintendent Wm. J. H. Schulz of the West Parks playgrounds states that there are 3,000 entered in their tournament.

The total entry list of all the organizations affiliated with the Chicago Playground Council will pass the 15,000 mark is assured.

V. K. Brown, Supt. of the South Parks playgrounds, gave out the following interesting statement: "Ten thousand ballots were cast for the most popular sport by the attendants at the South Park playgrounds. One hundred fifty sports were listed and each person was requested to cast a ballot for their favorite sport. Checkers ranked eighteenth in favor among the girls and only nine forms of recreation surpassed the grand old game among the boys."

When you realize that baseball, swimming, boxing, and in fact 150 different sports were listed you will understand that checkers is some popular game here in breezy Chicago.

Much of the credit for the popularity of the game is due to the Chicago Daily News which is the only Chicago publication that gives any amount of space to chess and checker activities.

Newell W. Banks visited the local clubs last month, giving his usual marvelous exhibitions of blindfold and simultaneous play. Upon his return here in February local fans are planning to arrange a blindfold exhibition in which the Detroit wizard will attempt to establish a new world's record at this style of play.

A FAITHFUL FRIEND PASSES

Friends of the game will mourn the death of Joseph Bailow, Librarian of Wells Checker Club, who passed away suddenly December 10th. A member of the Boston Club and of the Executive Committee, Joseph Bailow was ever ready to exert himself in behalf of the best welfare of Dama. His character was a strong beacon light, burning with a sure, friendly glow and lighting the path of many a comrade of the board. His services will be surely missed; the old familiar nod must live in memory.

BOSTON NOTES

WELLS AND BOSTON CLUB TIE

Before a large gathering of onlookers, the second team match of the series between the Wells Checker Club and the Boston Checker Club was played Dec. 12th and resulted in a tied score, 9 to 9. The Boston team was in the lead until the final game between J. Carroll and E. K. Wilson. Carroll won, thus evening the score. The veteran, Wm. Parrow, showed to good advantage and won his heat. In view of the nearness of the big checker meet on New Year's Day, the contest took on an added interest, many prominent out-of-town experts being present, notably J. T. Bradford of Cleveland and Jesse B. Hanson of San Francisco. The score in detail:

BOSTON			WELLS	
W		D		W
1	Morrall	1	Weslow	0
1	Waterhouse	0	Durgin (Capt.)	1
0	Wilson	0	Carroll	2
0	Kiley	1	Swenson	1
0	Monterio	1	McCarron	1
1	MacDonald, F.	1	Baker	0
1	Parrow	1	Duxbury	0
0	MacDonald, E. J.	2	Hubbard	0
0	Carter	2	M'Donald, E. W.	0
2	Peck	0	Hebb	0
0	Healy	2	Kehoe	0
2	Ford	0	Titus	0
0	Flavin	0	Wheeler, H. B.	2
1	Carr	1	Spector	0
0	Balisdel	1	Wheeler, G. B.	1
0	Moore	1	McLaughlin	1
0	O'Leary	2	Pinckney	0
9		16		9

BIG TURNOUT EXPECTED FOR WELLS MEET JAN. 1

An assembly of brilliant performers is expected to enter the fray for the New Years Meet at Wells Club. Sam Gotnotsky, American Tourney champion, Jesse B. Hanson, John T. Bradford, Ray Gould, J. Sheffield and Willie Ryan are the out-of-town entrants. While Morrall, Waterhouse, Townsend, Holden, Bickum, Weslow, Carroll, Durgin, Kiley, and other New England Masters will complete the entry It is rumored that A. J. Heffner and L. S. Head may compete.

COMMITTEE ON LOOK-OUT FOR LOCATION

The American Checker Assn. has requested A. J. Heffner, Boston, Jos. Brown, Woonsocket, R. I., Herbert Morrall, Boston, E. J. Phelan, Lynn, and Dr. J. C. Rogers to serve as a committee to locate a suitable hall in Boston for holding the International team match between Great Britain and America.

GLEANINGS FROM BRITAIN

The British Championship tourney is booked for Sheffield, England, commencing at Easter time. During this national event a number of candidates for the all-Britain team to oppose the all-American team will doubtless be recruited. E. Honeyball, president of the British Draughts Association is appealing to the British players and fans for financial and moral support.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the English Draughts Association was held Nov. 26th at the London League Headquarters, Diviani's, 123, Newgate Street, E. C. Luncheon was served at 12:30 and a match between an English team and a team from Wales featured later in the afternoon. Score: England 19, Wales 12; drawn 32.

Annual meeting of the Bradford, England Draughts Club took place in November, Mr. J. Holmes holding the gavel. W. A. James was elected president for the ensuing year. H. Moss and F. W. Clarke were chosen to captain the Bradford first and second teams respectively.

Yorkshire Draughts Assn. also assembled to discuss plans for the season.

We learn with regret of the disbanding of the old Lindley Club, where scintillating play was recorded in many a by-gone day. A number of the former membership have joined the new Huddersfield Club. Good luck!

COLORADO CHECKER BULLETIN

The seventh issue of "The Bulletin," the official organ of the Colorado Checker Association, issued monthly, is at hand, and proves by its appearance that this live wire checker organization is developing rapidly. L. J. Vair, eminent problemist and analyst of Denver, is managing editor, while E. A. Bruhn, 1312 Sixteenth Street, Denver, is the publisher and co-editor. The Bulletin says:

"George Dick, the veteran, who has fought more battles and won more victories than any other player in the state, was in Denver lately and proved conclusively, by adding to his laurels against strong opponents, that he has lost little if any of the cunning he possessed forty years ago, when he distinguished himself in matches against such notables as Wyllie, Priest, Reed, Barker, and others of national fame."

Single copies of the Bulletin are 10c and can be secured from publisher.

Geo. O'Connor, former Scottish champion, has returned to his native heath, after spending a year in Canada. Several of the American players had asked for his Canadian address, but no one seemed to know where the wily Scot hibernated while here.

CHECKERS IN ITALY AND HOLLAND

By J. Alexander (Birmingham England)

Our general knowledge of early checkers is limited, but for Italy and Holland more so than other lands. To antedate the sixteenth century these countries showed nothing recognizable till recently, when the implication of an old record was appreciated. This was made on the occasion when Count William of Holland went adventuring towards the east in the naval crusade of 1343-4. He stayed a while at Venice and made purchases of "2 scaecborde ende sciven ende scaecspel daertoe 48 sc backat velent 9 d. gr 7 m. Om 2 tafelbort ende scaecspel ende sciven. . . ." (2 chess and table boards with chess sets and sciven, etc.) These entries invite interpretation.

We note that he bought chess boards and pieces, but he also bought "sciven" as well—what were these? Evidently material for some game on these boards. Was this game checkers? Well, this game is played on the chess boards; it is, so far as known, the only other game there played; and the ordinary Dutch name of the pieces is the same "sciven." This sets up a good, if not unassailable argument for the first entry, but the second is more doubtful. Tableboard probably indicates a board for Backgammon on the one side and chess on the other, rather than the simple chess board of the earlier entry. Thus though the chess set reappears, the "sciven" may indicate only the backgammon men. Let it be so—one cannot argue two ways. If tableboard means a combined one, and so "sciven" means no more than the backgammon pieces, we must suppose that the first was a simple board, when the "sciven" must apply to checkers—the only possible game. We are safe in saying that he bought boards and men for at least two, but almost certainly three games on his voyage—for chess, checkers and backgammon.

The fact of the purchase of materials shows that the game of checkers was then played in Italy. And also in Holland, for against the suggestion that the count may have learned it elsewhere, we have the use of the Dutch name for the men. We may fairly hold that this is the earliest good record for either land, and another link in the chain of checker continuity and spread.—Salt Lake Tribune.

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS TOURNEY

At the City Hall, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, strategists of the board assembled December 30th for their festive holiday tourney. The "Everybody Welcome" sign was held out for in town and out of town players. R. P. Duncan and R. L. Boswell, president and secretary of the local group, patroled the scenes of action.

FAVORS 11-MEN BALLOT SYSTEM

The Checkerist—Gentlemen:

There are many checker enthusiasts whose knowledge of the game is limited by reason of being engaged in economical pursuits that prevent them from putting in time, memorizing book play and analyzed play that has been unpublished. Many such persons, well familiar with the fundamental principles of the game, usually do not make a very good showing when playing those who have a wide knowledge of pre-digested checkers.

When two such opponents meet, it is not a game of skill that is being played, and the person that wins a game by a prepared "cook" or by the opponent going into a loss, can hardly be credited with possessing superiority at the game.

Some method of play should be adopted whereby there would be an equalization of opportunity, and when this is done, I think that there will be an advancement in the game of checkers.

I was in Cincinnati recently. I called up Henry Hutzler's son to inquire where they played the game. He told me they did not have any organized club and he said the reason why the game did not seem to progress there was that there were a few "good players" and the novices or the checker aspirants soon gave up studying the game because of the inequality of ability.

I know of a few good players here who are prevented from becoming in the class of the "book" players, because they do not have the time. When they reach the end game play, they can play the game as good as any book player.

So I am very much in favor of the introduction of the 11-men ballot play. About 25 years ago, when in Chicago, I sent a letter to the Glasgow Weekly Herald, making that suggestion.

Another suggestion that I saw made somewhere by a player that had similar ideas to mine, was that the board should be turned about transferring the double corner to the opposite side. This is the method used in Spain, where the "Spanish" game is played. The orthodox games could, however, be played just the same, and this change would only add confusion—not progress.

Personally, I can hold my own with very strong players, when I am lucky enough to evade certain book losses and reach mid or end game, but the trouble is to get so far. Playing with eleven men would establish that equilibrium necessary to the rapid advancement of the game, and not the publishing of books with analyzed play—which very, very few ever can hope to remember.

Yours sincerely,
"SPUD SAMPSON"

AMONG THE ANALYSTS AND CRITICS

CRITICISM

By D. C. Calvert
(New London, Conn.)

Re W. J. Wood's, "A Fine Study," in March, 1925, Checkerist, I find some inaccuracies of play. Position: Black 10, 11, 19, King 14. White 20, 21, 29, King 17. Black to win.

At 22nd move of trunk we have: Black 14, Kings 13, 31, 32. White 21, 25, Kings 2, 22. Wood played 2-7. Instead 2-6 is best, thus: 2-6, 32-27, 6-1, 27-23, 22-18 13-9, 18-27, 31-24, 1-5, 24-19, 5-1, 9-13, 1-6, 19-23, 6-1, 14-18, 1-6, 18-22—B. wins.

At 6th move of Var. 1—Black 11, 15, Kings 14, 26; White 20, 21, 29, King 30 —play 15-18 instead of 26-22, thus: 15-18, 30-23, 18-27—B. wins more quickly.

Var. 3 at 6th move should read 31-26 instead of 30-26. Var. 3 at 8th move, for 26-22 go 15-18 best, same as var. 1.

At 20th move of var. 4—Black 18, Kings 6, 7; White 13, 16, 17—instead of 18-22 play 7-10 which gives Black a grip and an obvious win. Omit the "H" in var. 5; it belongs in var. 8. Var. 6 at 18th move read 23-27 instead of 32-27, a misprint.

In var. 7 at 5th move we have: Black 10, 11, Kings 14, 19, White 13, 20, 29, King 22. Instead of Wood's 29-25, play 22-26, 19-15, 26-22, 11-16, 20-11, 15-8, 22-26, 8-11, 26-23, 11-15, 29-25, 15-18, 23-26, 10-15, 26-22, 14-17, 22-26, 17-21, 26-30, 13-9, 19-23, 9-5, 21-17, 5-1, 17-22, 25-21, 1-5, 23-27—B. wins. White's best defense.

In var. 8 at 7th move—Black 11, 14, Kings 6, 8. White 13, 20, 22, King 23—instead of Wood's 22-18, play 23-19 and draw! 23-19, 14-17**A**, 19-16, 17-26, 16-7, 26-30, 7-2, 6-1, 2-7, 30-25, 13-9, 25-22, 7-10, 22-17, 20-16 — Drawn! Var. **A** — 8-12**B**, 22-18, 14-23, 19-26, 11-15, 26-31, 15-18, 31-27 — Drawn! Var. **B** — 14-18, 22-15, 11-18, 19-24—Drawn!

Note C at 6th move, for 7-11 (impossible) go 7-2. Note F. indicator G is misplaced—place at next move. Note G at 2nd move for 10-7, go 15-18 best. The author evidently was as careless in writing down his copy as he was in analyzing the play. — D. C. Calvert, New London, Conn.

CRITICISM

By C. A. Woodard

I enjoyed Mr. Vair's problems in Nov. issue, but think he could have forced his Var. B at 6th move of trunk, problem 411, by going 9-14 instead of 9-5.

CRITICISM

By Frank McLardy
(Manchester, England)

In the May issue, problems 297 and 305 are each headed "Unknown Author." Reverse the colours in both cases and they are , respectively, the same as Nos. 244 and 231 by N. Alist (nom de guerre of the late Richard Atwell) in "Scientific Draughts." The latter appears also, under Atwell's name, as No. 351 in "Horsfall's Problem Book."

Re F. D. Dillion's criticism of game No. 197 (July). After the 27th move of his play, the position is: Black—5, 9, 12, 13, 18, 23. White—20, 21, 24, 28, 29, King 11. Black to play. 23-27 draws easily; however, he continues 18-22, 11-15, and now, instead of his 13-17, Black can still draw by 23-26, 15-18, 22-25, 29-22, 9-14—drawn.

The terms of problem No. 348, by Maurice E. Hamer, cannot be sustained. Position: Black—7, Kings 10, 23. White Kings 8, 9, 13. White is asked to play and win, and the author goes 9-14, 10-17, 13-22, but 7-11 at this stage draws, correcting his 7-10 and 23-19.

The position after the 25th move of Maurice E. Hammer's Problem No. 363 is: Black—9, Kings 13, 17. White Kings 5, 6, 23. He lets White win by 17-14, but 17-22 draws.

F. D. Dillion, in the September number, attempts to upset August J. Heffner's analysis of the 29th game in the Long-Horr match. This is the position after the 17th move of his play: Black—3, 13, Kings 15, 30. White—12, 21, Kings 8, 14. He makes White move 14-9 here, allowing Black to win; instead, play 8-4, 30-25, 4-8—drawn.

There is a dual key-move to problem No. 368, by Baurice E. Hammer. Setting: Black—Kings 1, 15. White—13,17, King 2. Black to play and draw. The author shows a draw by 15-18 and tries to prove that 15-10 loses, but continue 13-9 (2-6 also draws only) and the position with colours reversed is the same as problem No. 90, by James A. Kear, correcting Mr. Hammer's 1-5 and 1-6.

CRITICISM

By B. L. Riley

Re Mr. Wood's correction in Dec. issue to my problem study: My corrected variation No. 2 and notes M & N contain most of his play. Mr. Wood overlooks two easy days for the White in his analysis. In his variation No. 2 at third move

he plays 31-26. 31-27 followed by 25-21 and 27-23 draws for white as black is minus the move after the exchange.

Again in his variation No. 3 Note-J he claims 17-14 followed by 30-25 wins for the black, but this allows white to draw if continued, 23-19, 25-21, 19-15 and white draws.—B. L. Riley.

2ND DOUBLE CORNER ENDING

Wm. W. Denton, 51 South Bish Ave., Dayton, Ohio, sends this ending from 2nd Double Corner:

"White—18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 30, 32.

Black—2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14.

White to play: can White win? It came up as follows: 11-15, 24-19, 15-24, 27-20, 8-11, 22-18, 10-15, 25-22, 6-10, 31-27, 10-14, 27-24, 7-10, 24-19, 15-24, 28-19, 3-7, 29-25, 1-6—now same as position above. Can your readers find a White win?—W. W. Denton."

TO THE RESCUE

By Elvin Lee

Re Frank O. Sobo enquiry, page 10 of Nov. issue, I wish to advise that this line of Single Corner is by Drummond and extensive play can be found in B. D. P., page 30. The complete game:

11-15	27-24	5-14	8- 4	13-22
22-18	10-14	19-15	29-25	16-11
15-22	24-19	11-18	4- 8	22-25
25-18	7-10	20-11	25-22**A**	19-16
8-11	32-27	18-22	8-11	12-19
29-25	9-13	26-17	14-18**B**	27-23
4- 8	18- 9	13-22	11-16**D**	18-27
25-22	5-14	23-19	6- 9	31- 6
12-16	22-18	22-25	30-26**C**	2- 9
24-20	1- 5	11- 8	9-13	21-17
8-12	18- 9	25-29	26-17	Drawn

A—2-7, 27-24, 25-22, 19-16, 12-19, 24-15, 3-12, 30-26, 10-19, 26-3, 12-16, 31-27, 6-10, 3-7, 10-14, 7-11, 16-20, 11-16—W. wins.

B—Play is given in 22-18 for a draw and is a hard line.

C—27-24, 18-23, 16-11, 10-14, etc., is a good draw line.

D—The B. D. P. does not give play on 11-15 at this stage. It will be interesting to find the right move for Black in reply. I have won several times with White, and find the Black play difficult, but resultant in a good ending.—Elvin Lee.

CRITICISM

By Hugh Egan
(Champion of Australia)

"Re 6th American Tourney Book, page 267, not D under game 335; please tell Mr. Heffner that play on 11-16 can be found in 'Robertson's Guide,' and in Teetzel's C. C. P., March 1907, page 104, var. 158. Re. game 3, page 115, note C. This 2-11 take was introduced by Holmes & Clark in the 1915 Australian championship tourney—five years before the Fourth American Tourney. Kind regards and best wishes. Yours faithfully,

Hugh Egan

WOULD CORRECT F. F. SMITH

By E. B. Estes
(Alva, Ky.)

In June issue I find a correction of B. D. P. by F. F. Smith of Birmingham, England. I enclose a correction of Mr. Smith's play. The game, "Old Fourteenth":

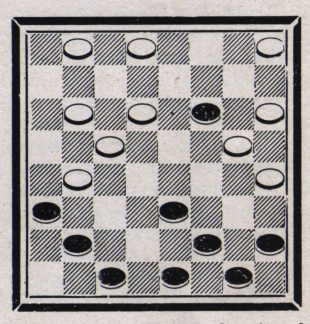
11-15	17-13	7-11**A**	25-18	15-18
23-19	15-18	32-28	15-22	23-14
8-11	24-20	3- 7	30-26	9-18
22-17	11-15	26-23	11-15	**B**20-16
4- 8	28-24	18-22	26-17	18-22

and now 27-23**C**.

A—The debatable move. B. D. P. says it draws, while F. F. Smith gives it as a loss.

B—The winner, says Mr. Smith.

C—The position is diagrammed at this stage:



Black to play. To make it clear we give Mr. Smith's play for a W. win.

8-11	15-24	2- 9	1-10	13-17
24-20	28-19	18-15	17-14	19-15
11-15**A**	6- 9	9-13	10-17	12-19
23-18	13- 6	15- 6	21-14	20-16

White wins—F. F. Smith

A—At this stage we propose to correct brother Smith as follows for a draw:

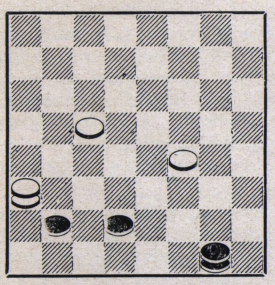
6- 9	18- 9	7-16	10-15	7-11
13- 6	5-14	20-11	2- 7	15-18
2- 9	19-15	18-23	22-25	11-15
23-18	11-18	11- 7	29-22	18-22
9-14	16-11	14-18	18-25	15-19

—and 20-16—Drawn—E. B. Estes.

Louis F. Crabtree, checker journalist from Syracuse, is organizing a Northern New York Checker Association, with headquarters at Syracuse. They plan to hold an annual tourney. Brooklyn and New York players got under way a year or so ago with the formation of a Southern New York Association, but nothing definite has been learned of the outcome.

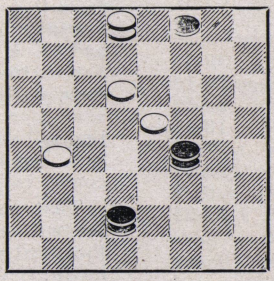
Problems for the Beginners

PROBLEM No. 438
By S. D. Taylor
White —14, 19 King 12



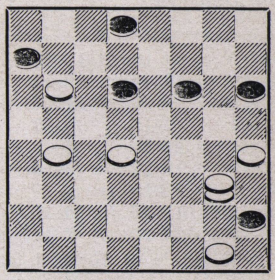
Black—7, 8, King 1
Black to play and draw

PROBLEM No. 439
By Paul M. Powers
Black—3, Kings 19, 26



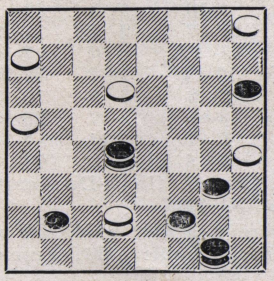
White—10, 15, 17, King 2
White plays; Black draws.

PROBLEM No. 440
By Paul M. Powers
Black—2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 28



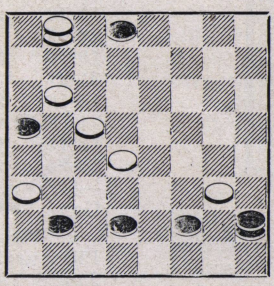
White—9, 17, 18, 20, 32, King 24
White plays; Black draws

PROBLEM No. 441
By Paul M. Powers
White—13, 20, 23, 28, 29, King 7



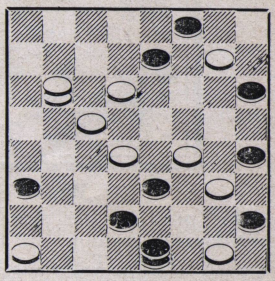
Black—6, 8, 9, 21, Kings 1, 15
Black to play and win

PROBLEM No. 442
By James A. Finn
Black—2, 13, 25, 26, 27, King 28



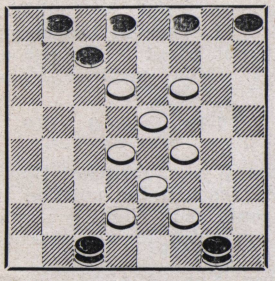
White—9, 14, 18, 21, 24, King 1
White to play and win

PROBLEM No. 443
By James A. Finn
Black—3, 7, 12, 20, 21, 23, 26, 28, King 31



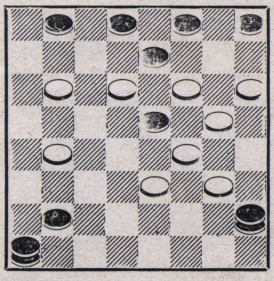
White—8, 10, 14, 18, 19, 24, 29, 32, King 9
White to play and win

PROBLEM No. 444
By Maurice Shapiro
Black—1, 2, 3, 4, 6, Kings 30, 32



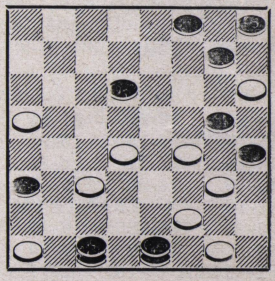
White—10, 11, 15, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27
White to play and win

PROBLEM No. 445
By Maurice Shapiro
Black—1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 15, 25, Kings 28, 29



White—9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24
White to play and win

PROBLEM No. 446
By James A. Finn
Black—3, 4, 8, 10, 16, 20, 21, Kings 30, 31



White—12, 13, 18, 19, 22, 24, 27, 29, 32
White to play and win

Beginners' Game Section

THE SWITCHER OPENING

A Review of the Great Controversy with Notes and Up-to-date Play.

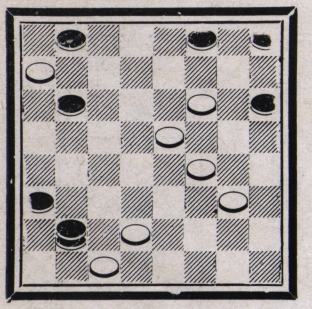
By John V. Crone, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Game No. 43, "Switcher"—E-1

11-15	22-17	15-22	24-19	29-25
21-17	13-22	*28-24	22-25	20-16
9-13	26-17	11-15	31-26	25-29
25-21	15-18	*23-19	25-29	16-11
8-11	29-25	5- 9	19-15	29-25
17-14	18-22	14- 5	29-25	32-27
10-17	25-18	2- 6	27-24	6- 9
21-14	10-15	19-10	25-29	27-24
6-10	24-20	7-21	24-19	

There is now formed, at the 44th move of the trunk, the following diagrammed position; Black to move and White to draw:

Black



White

This position has been reached by a considerable number of tortuous routes. It is what W. T. Call, in his "Rambles with the Switcher," aptly designates a "landing-place." So far as I know, I was the first to publish play upon it. It was first formed by me by playing 18-15 instead of 24-20 at the 9th move of Var. A, page 288, of Robertson's Guide.

As will appear from play which is to follow, the above seems the safest route after 29-25, by which it can be reached, and contains many radical departures from the practice of the "Old Master," James Wyllie, and other experts in his day.

Now continue as follows:

9-14	25-22	27-24	19-15	15-22
11- 7	6-15	15-10	*18-23	8-15
3-10	22-31	8-11	17-22	31-27
15- 6	24-20	*10- 6**A**	7- 3	20-11
1-10	4- 8 **57A**	12-16**B**	22-26	
5- 1	15-18	* 6- 2	3- 8	
14-17	31-27	24-19	26-31	
1- 6 **52A**	19-15	2- 7	23-18	Drawn

—Pittsburgh Leader (except last eight moves, Game No. 1827, Var. 1. Jan. 3, 1915.

A—If 10-7, Black wins by 24-19.

B—If 24-19, White wins by 18-22.

Var. 57A

Meaning variation A at the 57th move from the opening of the game. The writer has invented and is using for his own manuscript a method of indexing and filing games that has for its purpose to keep closely related play together no matter when nor where derived. A looseleaf system is being used, which admits of unlimited expansion as new play arises or comes to hand.

That such a system will be welcomed the writer has no doubt, for he long felt the need of it, the necessity, as is usual, having led to the invention. Some small use has been made of it in published play in Mr. D. A. Plumly's column in the Salt Lake Tribune, but this is the first occasion upon which it has been arranged to present it to the checkers public in such fashion that others may avail themselves of its use.

Now proceed with var. 57A:

17-22	10- 6	28-32	7- 2	14-17
15-18	25-29	7-10	6- 9	2- 7
22-25	6- 2	22-17	2- 7	17-22
19-15	29-25	10- 7**A**	1- 6	7-10
31-27	* 2- 6(**d**	17-14	7- 2	32-28
15-10	25-22	7- 2	6- 9	10- 7
4- 8**CD**	6-10(**c**	14- 9	2- 7	28-24
18-15**B**	24-28	2- 7	9-14	7-10
27-24	10- 7	9- 6	7- 2	24-28

—Drawn. J. V. Crone in Globe-Democrat, Game 2559, Sept. 30, 1917.

c—Play to here was first published in Pittsburgh Leader. Game 1827, Trunk, Jan. 3, 1915.

d—If 2-7, Black wins by 24-19. L. A. Woods vs. J. V. Crone, Oct. 1914.

A—15-19 here forms Variation 57A78A. This means a variation from 57A which is 78 moves from the beginning of the game. The principle involved is simple, and will become clear as further examples of indexing appear. In his files the writer would use Id (ibid, 78A instead of plain A which is necessary in manuscript for publication because lack of space in the magazine column will not admit of the use of the longer index. Now continue (Var. 57A78A):

15-19	19-15	15-19	13- 9	19-15
32-28	17-13			

—Drawn. James Wyllie, Switcher Book, Var. 99. Wyllie reached the position in question by a route only slightly resembling the one by which it was reached here.

B—10-6 forms Var. 57A64A, Black winning by fine scientific play for which it does not seem advisable to use space at this time. 10-7 draws as follows:

Var. 57A64B

10- 7	24-19	7- 3	19-24	3- 7
27-24	3- 7	29-25	7- 3	
7- 3	25-29	3- 7	24-19	

—Drawn. The last seven moves are by Mr. A. J. Heffner, and so far as I am aware, were first published in the Checkerist, Oct. 1924, page 19, Var. L. It is hoped in these articles to do appropriate honor to Mr. Heffner, whose forty-five years of close contact with the "Switcher Controversy" and general ability command my great respect.

C—29-25 is 57A63A and soon returns to trunk of 57A.

D—27-24 forms Var. 57A63B:

27-24	3- 7	15- 8	14-17	11-16
10- 7(g	12-16(f	7-10(e	4- 8	17-14
24-19	20-11	8-11	17-14	16-19
7- 3*	19-15	10-14	8-11	14-17
25-29	18-22	11-15	14-17	19-23

—then 17-14, and White drew by 4th position. G. E. Borg vs. J. V. Crone, in October, 1914.

e—Of course 30-26 draws at once, but I did not notice this until ten years afterward.

f—Here Mr. Heffner, in the Checkerist, went 4-8 and White drew as shown in the last seven moves of Var. 57A64B.

g—18-15 draws after the fashion of play hereinbefore made evident.

Var. 52A

24-20	22-31	18-25	30-26	7-..3
10-14	9-18	21-30	15-10	23-16
1- 6*	31-26F	19-15E	8-11	3- 8
25-22	30-23	4- 8	10- 7	
6- 9	17-22	23-19	26-23	

—Drawn. "Analyticus." Nov. 28, 1922.

E—Here we have Var. 52A64A:

23-18	30-26	9- 6	31-27	2- 7
4- 8	14- 9	26-31	19-16*	
18-14	8-11	6- 2	12-19	

—Drawn. F. Tescheleit. Letter Feb. 7, 1923.

F—Here arises Var. 52A53A:

31-27	24-19	19-15	8-11	11- 7
19-15	10- 6	18-14	6- 2	6- 9
27-24	12-16	15- 8	4- 8	
15-10	20-11	14-18	2- 6	

—Drawn. John G. Gilmore. Letter Feb. 7, 1923. A. J. Heffner. Ms. Var. 53. June 1923.

(To be continued)

J. V. CRONE.

[Ed. Note—We would like a frank expression from our readers regarding the preceding style of indexing games. It is simply an idea of how to publish serially an extensive manuscript, without changing the individual variations and notes of the manuscript. Thus when the manuscript is published completely, one can paste together in continuous form, all matter printed, without alterations—J. G. F.

PROBLEM COMMENT

Problem No. 438, the first of this month's lot, is the skeleton idea of many a beautiful problem. This theme is embraced in one of the finest problems extant, by Robert Stewart, World's Champion. The student should always be alert for these trick ideas in end play. In Nos. 439, 440 and 441, Paul M. Powers shows some well forced and neat play. James A. Finn, eminent Pittsburgh analyst and problemist, gives our readers a couple of dandy stroke problems in Nos. 442 and 443.

That wonderful boy problemist, Maurice Shapiro, presents one of the finest stroke problems in years in No. 444. Black's king row is intact and Black has two kings to boot. Note the remarkable position of White's men. The pyrotechnics that follow are like the evolutions of a pocket pool game. No. 445, also, has a Black king row intact, two Black kings —another masterpiece by Shapiro. J. A. Finn gives a neat block problem in No. 446.

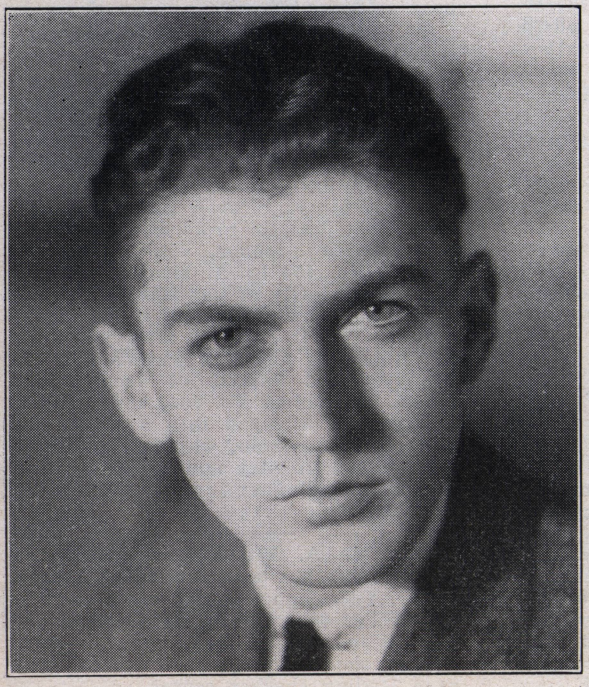
For the advanced players' section, L. J. Vair presents for the first problem a gilt-edged end play study, requirnig careful play to ferret out the best lines of attack and defense. Prof. Woodard of Albany, N. Y., is head of a large college there, yet he finds time to compose a rare checker problem now and then, and when he sends a problem, it is generally a finished product. Nos. 448 and 449 bear evidence of this.

W. J. Wood, prolific producer of pyrotechnics and scientific end play, gives three very neat studies in Nos. 450, 451 and 452, the last two of which are twin problems.

It remained for C. Merrison, a London, England, analyst, to correct No. 690 in Gould's Problem Book, after it had been accepted for years as a Black win. He shows it a draw in problem No. 453. A real surprise problem, with a sure fire kick, is No. 454 by A. Hendry. It may fool the majority of our solvers, but one should not be disappointed if the idea is missed. You'll enjoy it after you solve it. Robert L. Craig of Paterson, N. J., a player and analyst of keen ability, shows, in problem No. 455, how a White win can be changed into a draw, and corrects J. Cameron, who first published it as "Black to play and White to win." Watch for Heffner's prize problem in Feb. issue.

Prof. C. A. Woodard writes that a checker club has been formed at Albany, N. Y. Years ago this city was a bee hive of checker fans. With L. S. Head and Mr. Woodard as live wire workers, Albany should soon take its place again as a leading checker center.

AUGUST J. HEFFNER



ASA A. LONG

JOHN F. HORR

"The BIG

—and

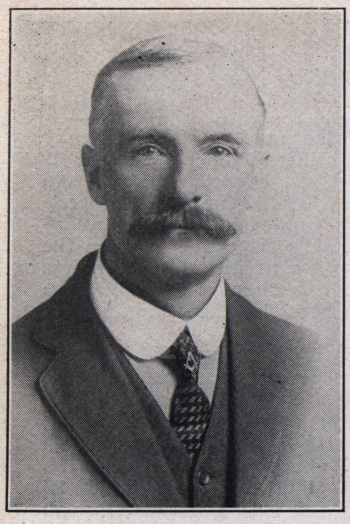
By JOHN G. FINLEY,

AS is generally the custom, when anything big in checkers is planned, diverse opinions are aired and expressed — players, writers and fans do not always agree and it is true to human nature that this should be so. Just now the great International match is in the making. The selection of our American team is the paramount subject of the hour. Favorite sons loom big in various circles, and questions are being propounded here and there by voice and in the press, whether this player or that player is capable of making the team; or whether this star or that star can make a comeback or not, etc.

One must, however, have respect for honest opinions, honestly expressed. Constructive criticism will hurt no man. It has been the aim of the A. C. A. to build collectively upon this constructive criticism and weld together a national team that will best represent America in the coming International match with Great Britain.

Following a precedent established by Scotland and England, the Executive Committee of the A. C. A. have chosen our past American champions as a nucleus for the team, adding the names of Ginsberg and Jordan.

Some of the further reasons that

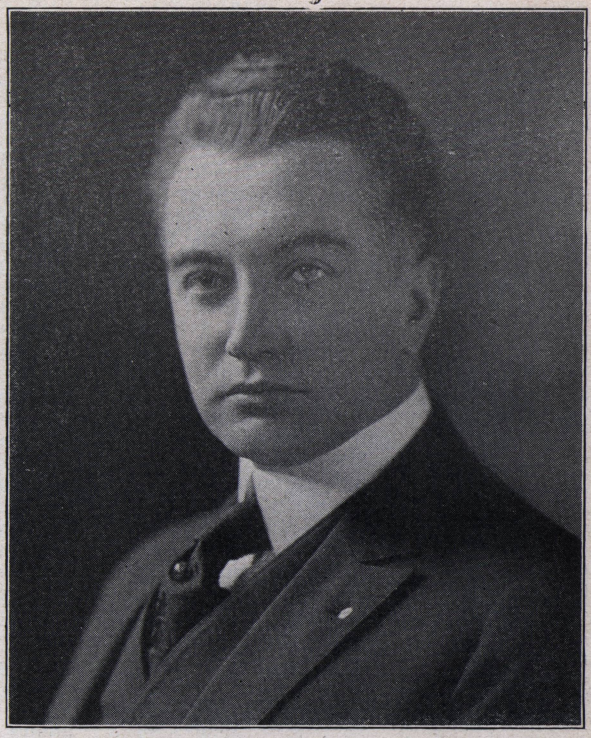


ALFRED JORDAN

G SEVEN"

WHY

LEY, *Secretary A. C. A.*



NEWELL W. BANKS

impelled the Executive Committee to select these players are outlined in the following paragraphs.

First we take Newell W. Banks. His ability is recognized wherever the game is played. Scotland and England conceded him to be a marvelous player. Robert Stewart, world's champion, thought Banks one of the greatest players of this or any other generation. To witness him play blindfolded against fifteen seasoned players at checkers, and five very strong chess players — win 12 games of checkers, drawing 3; win 3 games of chess, drawing 2 — was our good fortune while attending the Long-Horr match at Detroit in 1923. We were astounded to say the least. Studying the games along the line of boards, we marveled at the uncanny precision with which Banks called his moves, skipping from a delicate situation on one board to possibly a more critical point on another board. He visioned play and executed coups that tricked his opponents into losses before they realized it. Banks is generally accepted as the finest crossboard player in the world, as well as one of the greatest blindfold performers of all time. This mental giant will prove a real nucleus for our team.

(Continued on page 14)

SAM. GONOTSKY

LOUIS C. GINSBERG

"*The* BIG SEVEN" -- *and WHY*

(Continued from preceding pages)

Second, we will select at random (there is little difference when you mention the names of the "big seven") the name of John F. Horr. When but a youth, this checker genious played on our All-American team, and held his own against such renowned masters as R. Jordan, R. Stewart, Ferrie and other masters from Great Britain. In 1920 he won the championship of America at Cedar Point, O., defeating Jordan in the semi-finals and Bradford in the finals. In the Sixth Tourney he had both Ginsberg and Jordan at his mercy, but he missed a win on the former, and slipped up on an ending with Alf., which Horr should have won easily. He is conceded to be the leading authority in the world on the Barred Openings, and it is reported that Horr has more cooks on the regular two-move than any player in America. His victory over Asa Long in 1923 proved him a master hand. He is steady, careful and well groomed.

Third, let us point to the figure of Alf. Jordan — an illustrious name as familiar to checker players as the word "checkers" itself. Alf. has the greatest record in tourney play of any player living. Six times he won the London championship. Four times he won the championship of England. In 1912 he beat Ferrie in the Scottish Tourney finals and became champion of Scotland. Many held that this victory entitled him to claim the world's title. In 1914 he beat Banks 4 to 1 at Cedar Point. In 1917 he drew with Banks in a 40-game match, with two wins each. In 1919, Banks defeated him, 3 to 2, in another match. In 1922, at Boston, Alf. made the sensational record of defeating in successive four-game heats such eminent stars as W. E. Davis, L. C. Ginsberg, L. M. Lewis, H. O. Newcomb, H. B. Reynolds, E. C. Waterhouse and Victor Townsend. That, to our mind, is the most notable feat in checker annals. It is said Jordan is the best booked player living today. Artful Alf. can be depended upon to score many wins in the International classic.

The wonderful playing of Sam Gonotsky in the Sixth Tourney at once stamped him as a master. And his subsequent victory over Ginsberg convinced the American checker public that another Yates had come in our midst. Ask any of the big timers what they think of Gonotsky's play. Nearly all will tell you that they deem him as good as any player living; the remainder will tell you they consider him the peer of any expert on either side of the pond. Cool and steady as a Barker; brilliant and penetrating as a Yates; wily and sagacious as the old master, James Wyllie—Sam is not resting on laurels won—he is always studying and perfecting his game. Before the Sixth Tourney, we predicted great things for him. At this time, we simply say: "Watch his score in the International match."

Another mighty fine player is Louis C. Ginsberg. It will be remembered that he drew 15 games with Henderson in the Third Tourney; beat Hanson and Duffy, and divided third and fourth money with Banks, after 8 draws. He defeated L. M. Lewis in 1921 at Chicago, 3 to 2 and 25 draws, and scored his greatest triumph that year by winning a 30-game match from Jordan, 3 to 1 and 25 draws. To defeat Asa Long in 1922 at Boston was an added triumph. But what we consider his really greatest achievement was to strike out on original ground in nearly every game with Gonotsky in their recent match, ever straining to win by cross-board strategy, and then pull dangerous games out of the fire and draw after many crtical endings. And in quite a few of these he had Sam fighting for very life to get the draw. Ginsberg is safely booked on all the openings; and his unusual and bizarre lines, coupled with his masterly and brilliant cross-board acumen, impels us to state that the executive committee and International team match committee accorded him just tribute when they leagued him with the foremost players in the world.

L. M. Lewis is authority for the statement that he considers Asa Long the most finished player in America. In 1922 this remarkable youth, when yet 18 years of age, twice defeated Alfred Jordan at Boston, and won the Fifth Tourney and the championship of America. There is little published play that he has not seen and examined. In the Fourth American Tourney he made his debut by winning heats from Reynolds, R. D. Banks and H. McKean. Before the Fifth American Tourney he won two 10-game matches from Fred O'Melay, two Ohio championship tourneys, defeating Lieber in the finals, and the 1922 Cedar Point Tourney. In exhibitions he won 2 and drew 4 with O'Grady at Rochester; won 1 and drew 3 with Ketchum at Milwaukee, and beat R. D. Banks 1 and 3 draws at Chicago. In 1923 he lost a close match to J. F. Horr of Buffalo. At that time Asa was American champion, and he agreed to include the Barred Openings in the match by "forced ballot," when many other players

shuddered at the mere mention of these dreaded innovations. Leaving out the result of the Barred Openings (at which Horr stood in a class alone) the score of the match was 1 to 0 and 33 draws, showing very little difference in the stength of the players. Such a record is impressive, and surely entitles this youthful marvel to a place on the team.

We have now enumerated Banks, Horr, Jordan, Ginsberg, Gonotsky and Long. There now remains one more name, which should have been placed first; but to bring the proper climax to our story, we put it last. Yes, you have guessed it—it is HEFFNER—Heffner, the wizard; Heffner, the peer of all analysts; Heffner, the former American champion; Heffner, beloved by the entire checker fraternity of the world. There is only one Heffner—there will never be another like him. If there is such a thing as a master mind at checkers, he would come nearest to being the Master. Little doubt exists but that he has the keenest, the most comprehensive, broadened and profound grasp of the finer points of draughts of any player in this or any past generation.

His analyses of games and problem endings cut deeper, and plough a wider furrow than anything ever written in the literature of the game. He has been the leader and pioneer for 20 years or more.

His wonderful record as a player is past history.

How he defeated W. R. Barker, whom many thought the equal of his brother, C. F.; his victories over Clarence Freeman, the beater of champions; his even scores with C. F. Barker, the "Stonewall Jackson of the earlier days; and his crowning achievement in 1905, when he made the best record on the American team against Great Britain, playing the Britishers off their feet with daring, original lines, and holding even the galaxy of old world talent—is a matter of record in American checker annals—a record we have not easily forgotten. Today, well past sixty years of age, he is as hale and hearty and robust as the average man of forty.

As to his ability, America entertains no doubt. As to his availability for the International team, we can only quote the opinions of Banks and Jordan, and J. J. Lannin.

Banks, not so long ago, told the writer that: "Heffner could see more across the board than nine-tenths of the players could find by extensive analysis," and that "Heffner's judgment, by being more ripe and matured, is better now than in his hey-day," and that "with a few months of hard practice, Heffner could probably defeat any player in the world." And make no mistake—Banks knows whereof he speaks, for when he trained in preperation for his match with Stewart, he had Heffner as a coach, and had many a sharp cross-board tilt with the old master. The result of these tilts gave Newell a healthy respect for the cross-board ability of the Boston wizard.

Alfred Jordan, great player and keen judge of players and play, grew enthusiastic when Heffner's name was mentioned as captain of our team. "By all means include Heffner; he will prove a tower of strength"—these were the actual words of Jordan. Alf. added in substance that he considered Heffner among the greatest players of all time, and that "in England and Scotland Heffner is considered our foremost player."

J. J. Lannin writes: "By all means include Gus Heffner and L. S. Head in the first seven players. Head is well posted, and a much better player than he is given credit for; he is so retiring. I know his strength and it is no guess work. Do not overlook him. * * * * This also applies to Gus Heffner."

Mr. Lannin, whose success in life proves him an unusually keen judge of men, is a class "A" checker player. His words carry weight and should be considered well.

When at the Sixth Tourney, Heffner sat at a table near the games being contested by the leading players there. In front of him on the table reposed a checker board. The boys called it "Heffner's analytical board." And it was an appropriate term. J. J. Lannin, J. W. Bolton, Will Tyson, M. F. Clouser and the writer sat alongside him as he played the positions along, which came up between the various celebrities competing. A crowd of admiring fans would soon gather around the old man, who then and there demonstrated the reason why they called him the checker wizard. For in the various delicate and critical situations that developed between the experts—endings wherein unbeaten paths were being trod — Heffner would point out where this move would win; where that move would lose; where the players missed the point entirely to clinch a win or draw in hand, only to flounder and narrowly escape defeat.

And in the majority of these instances, these lessons were propounded well within a three-minute study, and oft-times at a mere glance! We are convinced that this wonderful veteran could see farther and probe deeper than any player in the tourney!

It was Heffner who found the win Horr missed on Ginsberg; he also discovered the remarkable draw that Jordan missed in the game Alf. lost to Waterhouse—two of the most important games in the tourney. And these conclusions were arrived

"The Big Seven," and Why

(Continued from page 15)

at by Heffner when he had studied only a few minutes, without moving a piece!

Had Jordan seen what Heffner saw—had Horr seen what Heffner saw—the story of the tourney might have been somewhat different.

Heffner is now busy mapping out lines of play for our team—has been working faithfully at it for six months. And we venture to say that he is probing deep, and wide, and exploring fertile grounds, whereon our boys can safely tread to victory in the coming International.

The International Match Committee, the Executive Committee and the great majority of the American players are indeed proud and thankful that we have such a capable captain to lay out our plan of action; to drill our warriors of the Dambrod; and to lead them and inspire them on to victory!

If ANYONE can do it, A. J. HEFFNER is the man!

WRITE IT RIGHT

If some folks talked the way they write, these United States would be a modern Tower of Babel. Legible letter writing and addressing is, after all, just a simple courtesy due the individual who is being addressed. The number of heads that grow gray trying to decipher the hastily written words of correspondents might well be astonishing if a census could be taken. Postmaster Kellogg did a public service when he inaugurated a "better mailing week" between June 1 and June 7. Consider these figures:

21,000,000 letters went to the dead letter office last year.

803,000 parcels did likewise.

$55,000 in cash is removed by the Post Office annually from misdirected envelopes.

$3,000,000 in checks, drafts and money orders never reached intended owners last year.

100,000 letters go into the mail yearly in perfectly blank envelopes.

A little care would cause a few more smiles all around.

BIG CLUB AT TORONTO

T. F. Best writes that Toronto is buzzing with checker activity and informs us that West End Y. M. C. A. club expects to have a membership of 100 ere long. Club matches in Toronto are held frequently. The Canadian championship is to be played off January 17 at Toronto Central Y. M. C. A. The city championship will follow in February.

HEFTER A GREAT PLAYER AS WELL AS PROBLEMIST

By David A. Mitchell

Despite advanced years, the two veterans, Charles Hefter and L. B. Starkweather have not lost their fondness for checkers. Mr. Hefter lives in Kankakee, Ill., while Brother Starkweather resides in Rockford in the same state.

The late F. N. Johnson was chiefly instrumental in cultivating Hefter's problem ability over any other department of the game. Forty-five years ago, Johnson tested his great classic against Hefter's cross-board play time and again before he submitted it for publication. Johnson was a lover of good problems and had a better knowledge of Dr. Brown's wonderful 2 by 2 masterpieces than any other player.

Mr. Starkweather was also a strong backer of Hefter in the early days. He brought Barker to Chicago for a match with Hefter and Barker won by a very close margin. Later he took Hefter to Boston, and in another match with Barker, the score was 2 wins each. In all they played about 60 games, and Barker came out 3 or 4 games ahead.

Mr. Hefter still has a master mind for the game and it seldom fails him, although lack of practice with worthy opponents and poor eyesight have handicapped him somewhat in recent years.

Hefter's sitting with Clarence Freeman, after the second match between Reed and Barker at Chicago, was one of his greatest achievements. Freeman accompanied Barker as his coach and a sitting with Hefter was arranged subsequently. The score was: Hefter 1, Freeman 0, with 4 draws. The game won by Hefter was a model of high-grade end play and it was witnessed by Barker and Reed.

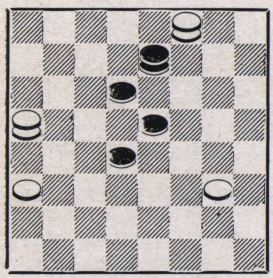
Barker, Reed, Freeman and C. Hefter, among the greatest players of their day, all gathered around a single board! That's a picture which Mr. Starkweather can look upon with keen enjoyment.

CHECKERS AND HOCKEY

Illustrative of the ever increasing popularity of checkers is the story of the world's hockey championship series between Montreal and Victoria on the coast. Owing to the rush for seats many fans had to take up their positions long before the games started. To relieve the tedium of the long wait, many solved cross-word puzzles, others ate ice cream and drank pop, while some of the politicians reviewed the political situation at home and abroad. But the most philosophical of all were the checker players; some of whom produced the boards and were soon seriously engaged in cross-board combat.

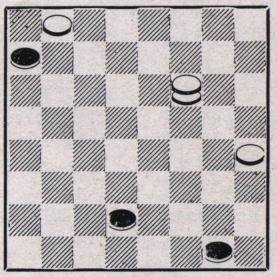
Problems for the Advanced Players

PROBLEM No. 447
By L. J. Vair
Black—10, 15, 18, King 7



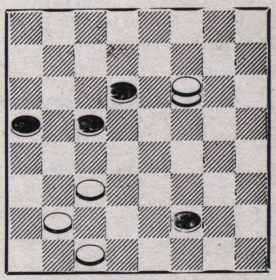
White—21, 24, Kings 3, 13
White to play and win

PROBLEM No. 448
By C. A. Woodard
White—13, 32, King 22



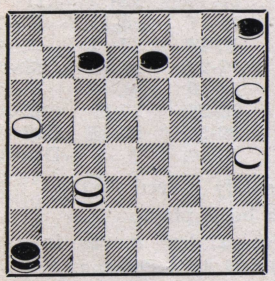
Black—1, 7, 28
Black to play and draw

PROBLEM No. 449
By C. A. Woodard
Black—10, 13, 14, 27



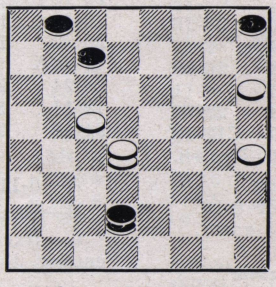
White—22, 25, 30, King 11
White to play and win

PROBLEM No. 450
By W. J. Wood
Black—4, 6, 7, King 29



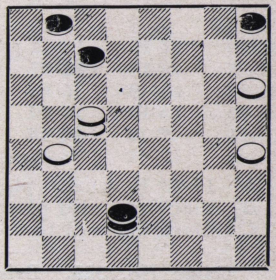
White—12, 13, 20, King 22
Black plays; White wins

PROBLEM No. 451
By W. J. Wood
Black—1, 4, 6, King 26



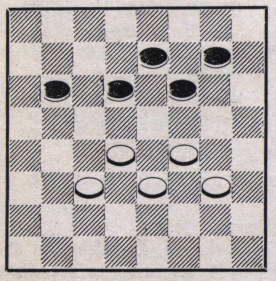
White—12, 14, 20, King 18
Black plays; White wins

PROBLEM No. 452
By W. J. Wood
Black—1, 4, 6, King 26



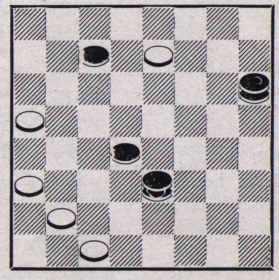
White—12, 17, 20, King 14
Black plays; White wins

PROBLEM No. 453
By C. Merrison
(London)
Black—7, 8, 9, 10, 11



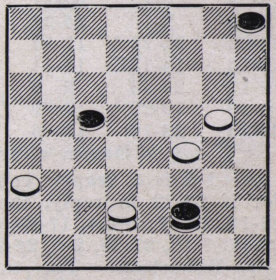
White—18, 19, 22, 23, 24
White to play and draw

PROBLEM No. 454
By A. Hendry
(Polmont, Scotland)
Black—6, 18, Kings 12, 23



White—7, 13, 21, 25, 30
White to play and win

PROBLEM No. 455
By Robert L. Craig
(Paterson, N. J.)
Black—4, 14, King 27



White—16, 19, 21, King 26
Black to play and draw

Advanced Players' Game Section

CEDAR POINT TOURNEY GAMES

Played in the Masters Tourney, Cedar Point, Ohio, August 3 to 10, 1925. Following are some of the games of the first round.

ROUND TWO

(Annotated by T. J. Harrigan)

L. T. de Bearn vs. C. W. Warnock

Game No. 322, "Bristol Lassie"

Black—Warnock			White—de Bearn	
11-16	7-16	2- 9	23-26	22-25
24-20	20-11	11- 7	7- 3	7-10
16-19	12-16	23-26	16-20	25-30
23-16	22-15	7- 3	27-24	19-23
12-19	9-18	8-12	20-27	18-14
22-18	25-22	15-10	32-14	10-17
10-14A	18-25	9-14	26-30	13-22
18-15	29-22	3- 7	31-27	23-19
14-18	6- 9	4- 8	30-25	8-11
21-17	22-17	7- 2	3- 7	19-24
9-13	13-22	5- 9	25-21	11-15
17-14	26-17	2- 6	14-10	27-23
6- 9B	3- 8	9-13	21-17	30-26
26-22	17-13	10- 7	10- 6	2- 7
1- 6	9-14	14-17	17-14	26-19
30-26	13- 9	6-10	6- 2	7-11
8-12	14-18	17-22	14-18	22-26
15-11	9- 6	10-15	15-19	C11-18
		—and	19-16—Drawn.	

A—19-23 is usually played here.

B—Black can also play 7-11 or 6-10.

C—Black did well to draw this game.

Game No. 323, "Bristol Lassie"

Black—de Bearn			White—Warnock	
11-16	8-11	15-22	14-18	26-31
24-20	27-24	24- 6	21-17	17-14
16-19	4- 8	1-10	18-22	18-15
23-16	32-27	13- 9	27-24	9- 6
21-19	8-12	25-29	22-26	31-26
22-18	17-13	21-17	31-22	14- 9
9-14	11-16A	22-25	25-18	26-23
18- 9	20-11	30-21	24-20	6- 2
5-14	7-16	25-29	16-19	23-18
25-22	25-22B	17-13	6- 2	2- 6
10-15	14-18E	10-14	19-23	18-14
22-17	26-23	9- 6	2- 6	9- 5
6-10	18-22	2- 9	23-26	3- 8
29-25	23-18	13- 6	6- 9	
		—Drawn after a long ending.		

A—1-5 is a trappy continuation here; for if 25-22 in reply, then 14-18, 30-25, 12-16, 22-17, 10-14, 17-10, 7-14, 26-22, 3-7, 22-17, 7-10, 31-26, 2-6, 26-22, 5-9—B. wins—J. Robertson. The text is given as weak in Robertson's Guide.

B—White misses the best continuation, thus:

24-20	*16-20C	28-24	10-15	22-15
3- 7	26-23D	2- 6	19-12	6- 9
20-11	19-26	22-18	22-26	Etc.
7-16	30-23	15-22	31-22	Drawn
25-22	12-16	24-19	15-18	

C—14-18, 21-17, 18-25, 30-21, 16-20, 17-14—W. wins.

D—27-24, 20-27, 31-24, 14-18, 21-17, 18-25, 30-21, 12-16, 24-20, 15-18, 20-11, 18-22, 26-23, 19-26, 17-14—etc.—Drawn.

E—De Bearn's best continuation here is:

1- 6	26-23	3- 7	28-19	11-18
22-17	19-26	24-19	7-11	23-19
16-20	30-23	15-24	19-15	18-22
		—and	19-15—Drawn	

Game No. 324, "Denny Lassie"

Black—Warnock			White—de Bearn	
10-14	3- 8	7-10	26-31	31-24
24-20	27-24B	25-22	9- 6	6-10
11-15	9-13	17-26	2- 9	24-19
22-18	18- 9	31-22	19-15	15-11
15-22	5-14	10-14	11-18	13-17
25-18	22-18	22-18	23- 5	11- 7
6-10	13-17	14-17	8-11	17-22
26-22	18- 9	18-14	5- 1	7- 3
1- 6A	6-13	17-22	11-15	23-26
28-24	21-14	14- 9	1- 6	10-15
8-11	10-17	22-26	15-19	22-26
24-19	29-25	32-27	24-15	C15-19
			—Drawn	

A—8-11 is usually played first.

B—Back into book play.

C—Except for a few moves in the ending, the game is all book.

Game No. 325, "Denny Lassie"

Black—de Bearn			White—Warnock	
10-14	9-25	11-15	19-26	9-14
24-20	29-22	18-11	30-23	11- 8
11-15	8-11B	7-16	11-16	14-18
22-17A	27-23	20-11	32-27	8- 3
6-10	15-19	8-15	15-19	19-23
17-13	23-16	31-27	23-18	Etc.
1- 6	12-19	4- 8	16-20	B.
25-22	22-18C	22-17	18-15	Wins
14-18	3- 8	8-11	5- 9	
23-14	26-22	27-23	15-11	

A—Varies from the previous game.

B—15-19 is a good alternative.

C—32-27 draws here; this move is weak.

There are 257 works in English on the game of checkers, not counting more than one edition of each book or magazine. The first date is 1756. The earliest authentic Spanish work on the game is dated 1650.

Mike Lieber vs. John Langan

Game No. 326, "Single Corner"

Black—Langan			White—Lieber	
11-15	21-14	6- 9	24-19	9-18
22-18	8-11B	32-27	15-24	23-14
15-22	29-25	1- 6	27-20	16-19
25-18	4- 8	26-23	6-10	14-10
12-16	24-19	7-10	30-25	19-24
18-14A	16-23	14- 7	10-15	27-23
9-18	27-18	3-10	31-27	24-27
23-14	8-12	25-22	12-16	23-18
10-17	28-24	10-15	18-14	27-31

—and 20-16—Drawn

A—29-25 is equaly good.

B—6-10 is a good move here.

Game No. 327, "Single Corner"

Black—Lieber			White—Langan	
11-15	16-20	8-15	9-13	7-14
22-18	28-24A	23-19	24-19	32-28
15-22	6-10	6-10	13-22	B20-24
25-18	19-16	25-22	26-17	27-20
12-16	1- 6	4- 8	18-22	19-23
29-25	16-12	22-17	19-15	28-24
10-14	10-15	15-18	10-19	2- 7
24-19	18-11	19-16	17-10	B. wins

A—26-22 is a good draw.

B—Cinches the win.

Game No. 328, "Double Lassie"

Black—Langan			White—Lieber	
9-14	25-22	10-15	27-20	8-11
24-20	9-13	24-19	6- 9	22-18
5- 9	30-26	15-24	29-25	13-17
22-18	6-10	32-28	3- 7	20-16
10-15A	22-18	2- 6	23-19	11-20
28-24	1- 5	28-19	7-10	18-15
15-22	18- 9	11-16	31-27	20-24
26-10	5-14	20-11	4- 8	15- 6
7-14	26-22	8-24	27-23	B 9-13

—and 23-18—Drawn.

A—Langan, losing the previous game, varies from the regular 11-16 move.

B—A good original game.

Game No. 329, "Double Lassie"

Black—Lieber			White—Langan	
9-14	28-24	13-22	28-24D	11-16
24-20	8-11	9- 5	8-11	15-10
5- 9	24-19	6- 9	22-18	7-14
22-18	11-16	30-25	14-17	18- 9
11-16A	26-22B	22-26	21-14	22-26
20-11	16-20	31-22	10-17	29-25
8-22	22-17C	9-14	25-21	1- 6
25-18	9-13	32-28	17-22	5- 1
4- 8	18- 9	3- 8	19-15	6-13

and the game continued 1-5, 26-31, 23-18, 13-17, 21-14, 31-26, 5-9, 26-23, 24-19 — Drawn.

A—Lieber, a game up, sticks to the solid line.

B—7-11 is a good alternative.

C—Dr. Schaefer played 29-25 here aaginst James Ferrie in the International Match. Ferrie replied 7-11 and Schaefer won. Instead of 7-11, 1-5 draws.

D—22-18 draws.

Game No. 330, "Fife"

Played at the Cedar Point Tourney, 1925, between N. W. Banks and O'Brien, during a blindfold simultaneous exhibition given by the editor.

Black—Banks			White—O'Brien	
11-15	22-17	3-10	3- 8	24-27
23-19	14-18	28-19	23-18	8-11
9-14	27-23	10-14	16-11	27-31
22-17	18-27	20-16	18-15	11- 8
5- 9	32-23	2- 7	11- 7	31-27
17-13	8-11	21-17	15-24	8-11
14-18	23-18	14-21	7- 2	27-24
19-16	4- 8	23-18	6- 9	11- 8
12-19	31-26	21-25	13- 6	24-19
26-23	8-12	18-15	24-20	8-11
19-26	26-23	25-30	8-11	19-16
30- 5	7-10	15-11	12-16	11- 8
15-18	24-20	7-10	11- 8	16-12
25-22	11-15	11- 8	16-19	8-11
18-25	17-14	30-26	8-11	20-24
29-22	15-24	8- 3	19-24	Banks
10-14	14- 7	26-23	11- 8	won

Game No. 331, "Second Double Corner"

The following shows how B. J. McGory got a fine shot in the ending of a game with W. H. Jones of Newport, Kentucky, during the Tourists' tourney at Cedar Point, 1925.

Black—McGory			White—Jones	
11-15	27-18	7-16	27-23	7-16
24-19	10-17	30-26	20-24	20-11
15-24	21-14	16-19	23-16	6- 9
28-19	12-16	32-28	24-27	11- 7
8-11	26-23	12-16	28-24	3-10
22-18	4- 8	25-22	9-13	14- 7
11-16	31-27	16-20	21-17	9-14
18-14	16-19	29-25	27-31	17-10
9-8	23-16	3- 7	24-20	13-17
23-14	8-12	25-21	1- 6	22-13
16-23	16-11	6- 9	16-11	31- 6

—McGory won.

Game No. 332, "Single Corner"

By E. B. Estes

11-15	9-18	8-11D	8-11	9-18
22-18	23-14	30-26	32-28	17-13
15-22	16-20	11-15	11-15	15-24
25-18	26-22A	24-19	27-24	22- 6
12-16	6-10	15-24	20-27	1-10
18-14	22-17B	28-19	31-24	28-19
10-17	2- 6C	4- 8	6- 9	
21-14	29-25	26-22	24-20	Drawn

A—An unsual move. Why not good for a draw?

B—Looks weak, but proves good.

C—1-6 is only good for a draw here. See Var. 1.

D—6-9 only draws.

Var. 1

1- 6	4- 8	15-24	*11-15	6- 9
29-25	26-22	28-19	27-24	24-20
8-11	11-15	8-11	20-27	
30-26	24-19	32-28	31-24	Drawn

Game No. 333, "Single Corner"

Played between M. A. Gurley, editor of Zeigler News and Wm. G. Davis, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America. Mr. Davis invites our readers to send criticism in the ending.

Black—Gurley			White—Davis	
11-15	7-10	2- 7A	28-32	31-27
22-18	27-24	17-10	4- 8	13-17
15-22	9-14	7-14	32-27D	27-23
25-18	18- 9	26-22	8-11	17-14
8-11	5-14	14-17	6-10B	23-19
29-25	24-19	31-26	13- 6	14-10
4- 8	15-24	1- 5	10-15	19-24
24-20	28-19	22-18	6- 1	10-15
10-15	14-17	5- 9	15-31	24-28
25-22	32-27	19-15	1- 6	15-19
12-16	17-21	16-19	27-18	28-32
21-17	27-24C	15- 8	11- 7	20-16
8-12	10-14	19-28	3-10	W. wins
17-13	22-17	8- 4	6-13	

A—This is the departure from regular play—W. G. Davis.

B—Mr. Gurley couldn't resist this "slip," and the 2 for 1, but when it turned out awry we returned to note B and instead of 6-10 he played 12-16, which lost by 26-22, 17-26, 18-15, 27-18—W. wins—W. G. Davis.

C—Anderson gives 22-18 as best here.

D—Black can get a good game here by 12-16, 20-11, 3-12 with winning chances—J. G. F.

At note B if Black plays 27-31, White can win by 18-15, 31-22, 15-10, 6-15, 11-25, 9-14, 13-9, 3-7, 9-6, 7-10, 6-2, 10-15, 2-6, 15-18 6-9 18-27, 9-18, 27-31, 18-14*, 31-27, 14-9—W. wins—J. G. F.

Game No. 334, "Edinburgh"—A-3

Played between Willie Ryan of New York City and Geo. Gravell of Rochester a few weeks ago. Notes by Willie.

Black—Ryan			White—Gravell	
9-13	30-25	11-18	22-17E	8-12
22-18	3- 7	22-15	9-13	31-27
6- 9	32-27	13-17C	27-23F	4- 8
25-22	15-19	21-14	13-22	28-24
1- 6	23-16	9-18	23-16	8-11
24-20	12-19	25-22	7-11	24-19
10-15	24-15	18-25	16- 7	6-10
27-24A	10-19	29-22	2-18	17-14
7-10	18-15B	5- 9D	26-17	Drawn

A—A strong move, not so well known as 28-24 or 29-25.

B—27-23 is hardly as good.

C—If 7-11 then 20-16, 11-20, 15-11, 8-15, 21-17, 13-22, 25-11 and White is best.

D—7-11, 22-18, 11-16, 20-11, 6-10, 15-6, 8-22 also draws.

E—Only move, and draws.

F—Looking for 17-14, 13-17, etc.

Game No. 335—"Single Corner"

Played between A. E. Clow of Owen Sound and A. H. Carl, Toronto. Notes by Mr. Clow.

Black—Clow			White—Earl	
11-15	24-20	5-14	26-23	10-17
22-18	10-15	31-26	18-27	21-14
15-22	23-19A	14-18	32-23	13-17
25-18	16-23	22-15	2- 7	19 15
8-11	26-10	11-18	30-26	17-21
29-25	7-23	28-24	7-10	15-10
4- 8	27-18	6- 9	23-18	8-11
25-22	9-14	24-19	1- 5B	26-22
12-16	18- 9	9-13	18-14C	11-15

—and 22-17—Drawn.

A—Should this move lose for white? I can find no P. P. on it. (C. Hefter published play for a narrow draw in some checker publication a few years ago—J. G. F.)

B—Clow lost here by 8-11, 26-22, 11-15 (hoping to pinch a piece on 22 in return). 18-11, 10-14, 20-16, 1-6, 16-12, 6-10, 11-8, 3-7, 8-3, 7-11, 3-7, 11-16, 19-15, 10-19, 7-10—W. won.

C—Only move to draw: 26-22, 10-14—B. wins, or 20-16, 10-14, 18-9, 5-14, 26-23, 13-17, 16-12, 8-11, 23-18 and B. wins, by stealing the man on 19 from behind—A. E. Clow.

OBJECTIONS OVERRULED

In the Chicago Daily News F. R. Wendemuth takes exception to placing Heffner and Long on the proposed American international team on the basis of past performances, both having been out of active play for so long that doubt exists as to their present form, which it is suggested should be well tested. As to Heffner, the only points to consider will be his physical condition and desire to play, the latter probably being a matter of course. There is a general and warm sentiment for the Nestor of the American game, particularly among those who will doubtless contribute most of the required funds, and it is very unlikely that he will be denied the well-deserved honor of heading the American team or required to give new proofs of the mastery of the game which has made him a recognized leader for a generation. One might as well assume that the Scots would deny a place to the veteran James Ferrie.

Heffner will play, and the fans contributing the money toward the match very much desire him to play.

GET AFTER YOUR FRIENDS

Start the New Year by getting your friends to subscribe to the Checkerist. This magazine is now enjoying its third year of prosperity and it is our aim to continue giving the fans their money's worth. The Checkerist is only $1.50 per year.

THE RELATIVE VALUES OF MAN AND KING.

Hitherto no attempt seems to have been made to determine on scientific principles the relative values of the two draughts pieces as employed in the English Game. That the subject has not entirely escaped consideration, however, is evident from the generally-held opinion expressed by Manoury (Opus 1770, page 111) and Lallement (1802, page 53) that—to use the regular Continental terms—a queen is worth three pawns. Unfortunately, it it not clear that this appraisement is aught than the result of guesswork. But even were it originally — as, indeed, it probably was—the deliberately thought-out estimate of a first-class practitioner, its appropriateness to the Polish Game is obviously no proof that it holds equally good in respect of what is known in this country as the ordinary game.

Mallet, in the course of commenting upon the rule as to taking the strongest force (not necessarily the greatest number), which was the high game in his day, uses one illustration fairly pertinent to the present purpose. Three men must be taken in preference to two kings, because, he explicitly states, the three men constitute the stronger force (page 332), or, to adopt an alternative expression, the greater aggregate of qualities (page 330, and elsewhere). This, stated in modern terms, signifies that the product of the numerical and qualitative values of three men exceeds that of two kings to a certain unspecified extent; consequently the difference between the qualitative values of man and king is at some indeterminate point between equality and the ratio of 2:3. A few other illustrations of a like nature would have been invaluable in this connection; but no more information as to Mallet's precise ideas on the subject, if he had any, appears to be gleanable from his great and justly esteemed work (1668). Nor does the"Egide de Pallas" (1727) throw any desiderated light on the matter; its author's nearest approach to the point in question being his drawing distinctions between the men when set ready to begin a game. An enumeration of the squares which each man may occupy in its progress to the crown-head (page 40) accords well enough with Quercetano's peculiar theories, since it serves to establish the local values of the men at their base of operations; but such a census can supply no sufficient data for a comparison of the powers of man and king as dynamic factors.

Meagre and, except in one case, distant as these references are, they probably comprise all that has yet been written on the subject under consideration. Our native teachers and textbook makers, seemingly, have not deemed it necessary to explain, or even touch on, the theoretical importance and practical utility of the question. An attempt to solve the problem of relative values, therefore, can hardly fail to interest the intelligent student, and may also be of some slight use to the practitioner. In end-games, not unfrequently, the preponderance of qualitative force has a deciding effect on the result, which is usually attributed wholly and solely to the possession of "the move" or, what is widely but erroneously supposed to be the same thing, the potentiality of the "opposition."

First drawing a convenient but, in view of the much iterated reference to the game's scientific nature, strangely neglected distinction between the operation of moving and that of taking or capturing, a common ground for comparing the respective moving powers of man and king is obtained by finding, on a clear board, the average number of moves which can be made by each piece from one square of its proper field of play. The results thus found allow the moving power of the man to be represented by 1.75, and that of the king by 3.0625; consequently, the ratio of moving values is as 4 : 7 precisely. Similar results as to the taking powers of the two pieces are arrived at by averaging the average number of pieces which, in all favourable circustances, can be captured at one play from each square; namely, 1.4143 for the man, and 4.0422 for the king. Hence the ratio of capturing values is shown to be as 5 : 14 nearly. Then by multiplying together the moving and taking values of each piece, and extracting the square root of the separate products, the combined powers of man and king respectively are found to be 1.5732 and 3.5183; which is equivalent to a ratio of 5 : 11 nearly.

Here, however, a further consideration must be taken into account. As a man in the course of play advances towards the crown-head, it obviously approximates by regular stages to the value of a king. Consequently, the average value of the man will be represented by its value at the mean distance between base-rank and crown-head. Adding, therefore, half the difference between the ascertained values of man and king to that of the former, the relative values of the pieces become 2.5457 and 3.5183 respectively. The corrected ratio thus emerges as 5:7 nearly—near enough, indeed, to be adopted for all practical purposes as the actual ratio.

This solution of the problem of relative values, it is worthy of note, is in full agreement with Mallet's example of three men constituting a greater qualitative aggregate than two kings. It must not

be forgotten, however, that the computation is founded on the principle of averages, and that consequently a certain modicum of judgment must be exercised in applying the resultant to concrete instances. Further consideration, possibly, may prove the desirability of introducing into the account some extending or modifying factor which is here omitted; but be that as it may, the ratio of 5:7, if not universally applicable, will be found to hold good at the crucial point of the vast majority of problems which occur in actual play. — (D. M. W. in Auckland Chronicle, England.)

ENGLISH CANDIDATES SELECTED

The following letter received by the Secretary of the A. C. A., from Arthur A. Ashworth, Secretary of the English Draughts Association, shows that our cousins across the pond are going quietly, but without loss of time, about the matter of selecting the six men to represent England in the coming International Match.

Harle Syke, Burnley
England, Dec. 10th.

Dear Mr. Finley:—

The following English players have been selected as a preliminary to finding the best six men to represent the E. D. A. and play against America in the Autumn of 1926:

Allan Hynd, Manchester.
John Hynd, Manchester.
J. Alexander, Birmingham.
R. T. Ward, London.
H. Christie, Sunderland.
T. Goldsboro, Bradford.
T. Biggs, Sheffield.
Willie Gardner, Leeds.
A. Cain, Liverpool.
J. Dufficy, St. Helens.
Sam. Cohen, London.
Francis Tescheleit, London.
F. Kaiser, London.
H. J. Fricker, London.
D. G. McKelvie, London.
J. A. Kear, Bristol.

The following Selection Committee was appointed with power to add two more members: A. Ashworth, Harle Syke; E. Honeyball, Sheffield; W. Hilliard, London; Allan Hynd, Manchester; Willie Gardner, Leeds.

Hoping that the New Year of 1926 will find the grand old game flourishing more than ever in America, and extending to the officers and members of the American Checker Association our best wishes for a Happy New Year,

I remain yours fraternally,
ARTHUR A. ASHWORTH, Sec. E.D.A.

TO OUR READERS

Beginning with this issue, the Checkerist starts its fourth volume as a monthly checker publication devoted to the interests of players and play. The issues of this volume, No. 4, will be page numbered consecutively, so that at the end of the year the entire twelve numbers can be bound in one complete book. Very soon now, we will print a complete index to the preceding issues and send a free copy to each subscriber. The 1923 and 1924 numbers can be bound in one book and labeled Vols. 1 and 2. The 1925 issues comprise Vol. No. 3 and this issue is the first number of Vol. No. 4.

LONDON VETERAN PASSES AWAY

"Uncle Percy" Conen, aged sixty-nine years, and an old London Wanderer, and a member of the London West End club, left for fairer lands on Monday, November 9th. He had seen two generations of Draughts players come and go, and up to the last evinced a keen interest in the game and held a high place among his colleagues socially and as a hard cross-board player.

DRAUGHTS REVIEW FOR DEC.

With the Dec., 1925, issue of the Draughts, the first volume is completed, extending to fourteen numbers. In the future it is intended that a volume shall commence in January and end in December each year. The Dec. issue consists of sixteen pages of magazine together with the title page and Index to vol. 1, very admirably arranged by Mr. Barron.

RILEY CORRECTS FULFORD

By B. L. Riley

Re Geo. H. Fulford's criticism to my position as published in Oct. Checkerist, Mr. Fulford claims a B. win on Var. 4, but overlooks a very easy draw. At 3rd move of Var. 4 he goes 18-23, 20-24, 23-26, 24-19, 26-30, 19-23, 30-25. He now plays 23-19 for a B. win, but White can play 17-14 and get an easy draw.

ALTOONA DEFEATS HARRISBURG

The quintet of players representing the Harrisburg checker team were unable to muster enough skill to defeat the strong Altoona team of five in their late set-tos. At Altoona the score was 14 to 6, the home team on the long end and at Harrisburg the standing was 11 to 5, Altoona's favor. For Altoona, Cassidy, Cover, Howard, Kendig and Kephart did the pushing, while Gilbach, Sellers, Hostetter, Engel and J. Kauffman bucked 'em for Harrisburg.

PROBLEM SOLUTIONS IN THIS ISSUE (JANUARY, 1926)

No. 438, by S. D. Taylor

7-10	14- 7	1- 6	12- 3	6- 2
			—and 19-16—Drawn.	

* * *

No. 439, by Paul M. Powers

17-13	22-17A	2- 7	18-15	15- 8
26-22	9- 5	14-18	5- 1	Drawn
13- 9	17-14	15-11B		

A—22-18, 15-11, 19-15, 10-7—W. wins.
B—7-11 allows see-saw draw.

* * *

No. 440, by Paul M. Powers

9- 6	17-14	18-15	20-16	24- 6
2- 9	10-17	11-18	12-19	W. wins

* * *

No. 441, by Paul M. Powers

21-25	8-11	6-10	15-11	1-19
29-22	7-16	13- 6	16-14	B. wins

* * *

No. 442, by James A. Finn

1- 5	13-22	19-17	2- 9	22-26
28-19	18-15	9- 6	5-32	32-27
21-17				—White wins

* * *

No. 443, by James A. Finn

32-27	20-27	19-16	3-12	17-21
23-32	14- 9	12-19	29-25	12-16
9-13	7-23	13-17	21-30	9- 5
				—White wins

* * *

No. 444, by Maurice Shapiro

10- 7	2-11	19-15	30-14	2-27
3-10	15- 8	10-19	7- 2	
11- 7	4-11	23- 7	32-23	W. wins

* * *

No. 445, by Maurice Shapiro

10- 6	3-12	19- 3	12-19	11- 8
1-10	17-14	28-26	9- 6	4-11
12- 8	10-17	3- 7	2- 9	W. wins

* * *

No. 446, by James A. Finn

27-23	10-26	29-25	3-12	9- 6
20-27	23-18	8-11	13- 9	
18-14	16-23	12- 8	12-16	W. wins

* * *

Advanced Players' Problems

No. 447, by L. J. Vair

21-17	8-12	16-19	9-14	19- 3
7- 2A	7- 2-1	7- 2	2- 7	W. wins
3- 8	12-16	13- 9	17-13	
2- 7B	2- 7	18-22	10-17	

A—7-11, 24-19, 15-24, 17-14, 10-17, 13-8; or 18-22, 17-14—W. wins.
B—18-22C, 8-11, 15-18, 13-9, 18-23, 9-14—W. wins.
C—18-23D, 8-11, 15-18, 11-7, 2-11, 17-14, 10-17, 13-8—W. wins.
D—2-6, 8-11, 6-1F, 13-9, 1-5, 9-14—W. wins.

Var. 1

18-22	15-18G	18-23	7- 2	22-26
12-16	13- 9	24-19	16-11	11-15
				—White wins

E—7-11, 24-20, 15-24, 17-14, 10-17, 13-8—W. wins.
F—15-19, 24-15, 10-19, 11-15—W. wins. Or 6-2, 13-9, W. wins.
G—7-2, 16-11, 15-18, 13-9, 18-23, 9-14—W. wins. Or 22-26, 17-14—W. wins.

* * *

No. 448, by C. A. Woodard

1- 6	32-27	19-16	6-10	15-19
22-18	23-19	12- 8	13- 9	23-26
7-10	27-24	16-11	10-14	14-18
32-27	19-16	8- 3	9- 6	Drawn
28-32	24-19	10-15	11-16	
27-23	16-12	18-23	3- 7	

* * *

No. 449, by C. A. Woodard

25-21	27-32C	19-26	28-32	18-15
27-31	*30-25	28-24	25-22	10-14
11-16	32-28	26-23	32-27	19-23
31-27A	22-18	24-28	22-18	W. wins
16-19	14-23	23-19	27-32	

Var. A

10-15	15-19B	19-24	24-28	W. wins
16-11	11- 7	7- 2	2- 6	

Var. B

14-18	18-25	13-22	11-25	W. wins
21-17	30-21			

Var. C

27-31	31-26	26-17	16-19	W. wins
30-25	19-16			

* * *

No. 450, by W. J. Wood

6-10	25-30	14-17	26-22	22-17
22-18	13- 9	9- 5	1- 5	9- 6
29-25	10-14	30-26	17-21	7-10
20-16	18-15	5- 1	5- 9	15-18
			—etc.—White wins	

* * *

No. 451, by W. J. Wood

1- 5	16-11*	9-13	7-11	24-27
20-16*	27-24	18-22*	20-24	16-19
26-31	11- 7	16-19	12- 8	27-32
18-23*	24-19	6-10	24-20	19-24
6- 9	7- 2	19-16	8- 3	32-28
23-18*	19-16	10- 7	20-24	24-27
31-27	2- 6	16-20	11-16	28-32
		—etc.—White wins by first position.		

* * *

No. 452, by W. J. Wood

26-22	16-11	24-20	11- 7	1- 5
17-13	23-19	3- 8	6-10	18-23
22-26	12- 8	20-24	14-18	10-14
20-16	19-24	8-12	19-24	2- 7
26-23	8- 3	24-19	7- 2	
		—etc.—White wins by first position.		

* * *

No. 453, by C. Merrison

22-17A	17-22	24-20	27-31	14- 9
9-13	23-18	16-19	7- 3	22-15
17-14	22-26	15-10	31-26	12-16
10-17	19-15	7-11	3-12	Drawn
18-14	11-16	10- 7	26-22	

A—Corrects 24-20, Black wins, in Gould's Problem Book.

* * *

No. 454, by A. Hendry

7- 2	10-15	21-17*	29-22	6- 1
6-10	25-22*	25-29	13- 9	13- 6
2- 6	18-25	30-25	22-13	1- 26
				— W. wins

* * *

No. 455, by Robert L. Craig

27-24	24-19	19-12	14-18A	12-16
19-15	15-11	26-22	22-15	Drawn

A—Corrects 12-8, 22-17, 8-15, 17-19—W. wins by J. Cameron.

CRITICISM

By Keith Carran

Re problem 386 in Oct. issue, I have not been able to prove the White win as given in the solution. Position:

Black—3, 5, 6, 7, 15.

White—12, 13, 14, 20, 24, 26.

White to win. If Black plays 7-11 instead of 23-26 at tenth move, the result is a draw. I submit the following play, however, to establish the win:

12- 8	22-17	*20-16	9- 6	1- 6
3-12	15-18	23-27	31-27	24-15
26-22	24-19	13- 9	6- 1	6- 2
6-10	18-23	27-31	27-24	12-19
			—and 2-18—W. wins	

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CHESS CHATS *and* COMMENT

By MARVIN PALMER

Very few of the 210 games played in the Moscow international chess congress were harder fought than that between Jose R. Capablanca, the world's champion, and Carlos Torre of New York. Capablanca was called upon to meet the MacCutcheon variation of the French Defence and abandoned his favorite continuation of 5 P x P, choosing to play the line commencing with 5 P - K 5. After an eventful struggle, an end-game was reached in which the champion was two pawns to the good, but could do no more than draw. Torre deserves great credit for the resolute, unyielding fight he put up. The score:

Game No. 1—French Defence

White—Capablanca	Black—Torre
1 P - K 4	1 P - K 3
2 P - Q 4	2 P - Q 4
3 Kt - Q B 3	3 Kt - K B 3
4 B - K Kt 5	4 B - Kt 5
5 P - K 5	5 P - K R 3
6 B - Q 2	6 B x Kt
7 P x B	7 Kt - K 5
8 Q - Kt 4	8 P - K Kt 3
9 B - Q 3	9 Kt x B
10 K x Kt	10 P - Q B 4
11 P - K R 4	11 Kt - B 3
12 R - R 3	12 P x P
13 P x P	13 B - Q 2
14 P - Q B 3	14 Q - K 2
15 Q - Q 1	15 Kt - R 4
16 Q - Kt 1	16 R - Q B 1
17 Kt - K 2	17 R - B 3
18 Q - Kt 4	18 Q x Q
19 P x Q	19 Kt - B 5 ch
20 B x Kt	20 R x B
21 P - R 3	21 K - K 2
22 R - Q B 3	22 K R - Q B 1
23 Q R - Q B 1	23 R x R
24 R x R	24 R x R
25 Kt x R	25 P - B 3
26 K - K 3	26 P - K Kt 4
27 P x P ch	27 K x P
28 P x P ch	28 K x P
29 P - B 3	29 B - K 1
30 P - Kt 4	30 B - B 3
31 P - R 4	31 B - Q 2
32 P - Kt 5	32 B - K 1
33 Kt - K 2	33 P - K R 4
34 Kt - B 4	34 P x P
35 Kt x P ch	35 K - R 5
36 P x P	36 K x P
37 Kt - Q 8	37 K - B 4
38 Kt x P	38 K - K 3
39 K - Q 3	39 K - Q 2
40 Kt - B 5 ch	40 K - B 2
41 Kt - R 6 ch	41 K - Kt 3
42 K - B 3	42 K - R 4
43 K - Kt 3	43 B - R 4
44 K - R 3	44 B - Q 8
45 Kt - B 5	45 P - R 3
46 P x P	46 K - Kt 3
47 K - Kt 4	47 B - K 7
48 P - R 5 ch	48 K - R 2
49 Kt - K 6	49 B x P
50 Kt - B 7	50 B - B 5
51 K - B 5	51 B - Kt 6
52 K - B 6	52 B - B 5
53 P - R 6	53 B - K 7
54 K x P	54 K - Kt 3
55 K - Q 6	55 B - Kt 5
56 P - Q 5	56 B - B 6

Drawn.

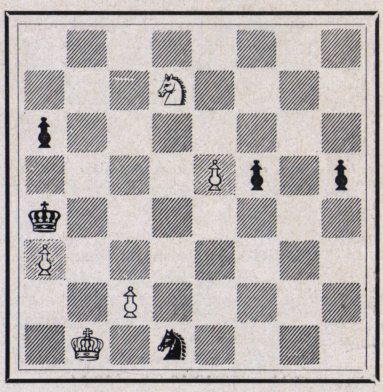
Samuel D. Factor, state champion of Illinois, and Lewis J. Isaacs, a former holder of that title, are contesting a match of ten games at the Chicago Chess and Checker Club. Up to this writing four games have been played, Isaacs winning the first and second, Factor the third, and the fourth game being drawn.

John Winter, of Detroit, who is spending the winter months in Florida, won the championship of that state in the annual state tournament held at Miami in December.

CHESS PROBLEM No. 5

By Henri Rinck

Black (5 pieces)



White (5 pieces) to play
What result and how?

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No 4

White draws by 1 R-B8, QxR; 2 Q-Q7, Q-B4; 3 Q-B5ch, QxQ stalemate. If 2 . . . Q-B5; 3 Q Q8ch and Q-Kt8 ch, drawing. If 1 . . . P - Q 8 (Q); 2 Q x Q, Q x R; 3 Q - Q 7, etc. Drawn.

The Draughts Review

Official organ of the English Draughts Association

This excellent Draughts periodical has just issued its 12th number. It has been giving a comprehensive review of the 12-16, 23-19 Barred Opening, showing much new play on the line.

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